

IN THE DRAWINGS

Replacement Sheets for Figs. 6 and 7 are submitted herewith, with a Submission of Proposed Drawing Amendments.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

A Replacement Sheet of Figs. 6 and 7 is submitted with a Submission of Proposed Drawing Amendments to include labels identifying the drawings as related art.

The specification has been amended to overcome the applied objections and for clarity. No new matter is believed to be introduced by the amendments.

Claims 1 and 4 have been amended, and claims 5-7 have been canceled. Support for the amendments is provided, for example, in the original claims, Figs. 4 and 5 and their accompanying descriptions in the specification.

Claims 1-7 were rejected, under 35 USC § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Ota (JP 2002-352498) in view of Applicants' Description of the Related Art and Kenwood (JP-58834). To the extent these rejections may be deemed applicable to the amended claims, the Applicants respectfully traverse based on the points set forth below. The references above to the specification and drawing are for illustrative purposes only and are not intended to limit the scope of the invention to the referenced embodiments.

Claim 1 now defines a disk apparatus having a lid with a convex portion disposed opposite a disk rotation stage such that when the disk rotation stage is inclined toward the lid for loading a disk onto the disk rotation stage, the convex portion and the disk rotation stage pinch the disk so that it becomes securely attached to a central hub of the disk rotation stage. Additionally, the convex portion is inclined with respect to the lid so as better match the inclination of the disk rotation stage as the disk is pressed onto the hub, thereby allowing the disk

to be uniformly pressed about its inner circumference to form a better, more stable attachment to the hub (see paragraphs 8 and 9 of the specification).

The Office Action acknowledges that Ota and the Applicants' Description of the Related Art do not suggest a disk apparatus having an inclined convex portion of a lid disposed opposite a disk rotation stage, such as recited in claim 1 (see Office Action section 4, second and third paragraphs). To overcome this deficiency, the Office Action proposes that Kenwood discloses, in Fig. 1, a clamp that can be adjusted to conform to the surface of a disk, so as to hold the disk evenly (see section 4, fourth and sixth paragraphs).

However, Kenwood discloses, in Fig. 1, a disk tray 8 on which disks of different outer radii may be placed while the disk player is disposed at an inclined attitude. Kenwood's disk tray 8 is not a convex portion provided on a lid for clamping and cannot press a disk against a rotation stage to mount the disk onto the rotation stage.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Ota, the Applicants' Description of the Related Art and Kenwood, considered individually or in combination, do not render obvious the subject matter now defined by claim 1. Therefore, allowance of claim 1 and all claims dependent therefrom is warranted.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James E. Ledbetter", written in a cursive style.

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JEL/DWW/att

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